

5. To receive recommendations from state committees on physicians whose services are believed necessary for maintenance of civilian health and who should, in the opinion of the committees, be exempt from military service.

6. To assist in the verification of qualifications of physicians desired for service in the army or other national defense work.

The *Journal* of the American Medical Association in announcing the composition of the national committee, gives as its aim "to prepare our nation to meet any emergency."—*Riverside Enterprise*, September 9, 1940.

* * *

City Health Plan Revision Asked

Doctors Seek Adjustment in Scale of Fees by City Workers

A charter amendment granting San Francisco doctors a voice in the affairs of the Municipal Employees' Health Service System will be introduced in the Board of Supervisors today.

In behalf of the physicians and surgeons who provide medical care for the 15,000 city employees and dependents served by the System, the amendment is sponsored by the San Francisco County Medical Society.

The amendment would:

1. Grant doctors the right to petition for changes in the System's operation (within limits of the charter section creating the System) and require the Health Service Board to consider such petitions.

2. Empower the City Retirement Board to modify, as well as approve or disapprove as at present, Health Service Board action on contracts.

3. Bring the System's hospitalization arrangements into conformity with the State Insurance Code.

4. Provide for annual review of medical and surgical compensation schedules.

On November 5 Ballot

If submitted by the Board of Supervisors, the amendment will appear on the November 5 ballot.

Dr. William Reilly, President of the County Medical Society, said yesterday:

"By some chance, when the original charter amendment creating the Health Service System was drafted, the doctors whose services make the System possible were excluded from any participation in the System's affairs.

"During the two years the System has been operating, this situation has been the source of much friction and discontent. We doctors have had no right to initiate changes in methods or procedures whether we believed them in the interests of the patients or of the doctors themselves. We have had to assume the attitude of supplicants outside the doors of the Health Service Board and its medical director.

"Nearly nine months ago, for example, we requested, and the Retirement Board directed, the Health Service Board to discuss with us certain revisions of our fee schedule. These revisions concerned only the doctors, involving a redistribution of available medical funds among the doctors themselves. Not a cent of additional money was asked.

"Yet, after nine months, we are still seeking the Health Service Board's permission to effect this redistribution. Only the other day, the Board told us we had not followed the correct procedure to obtain this permission and that we must start over again.

"The value of our professional services to the System—we gave more than \$132,000 worth of free medical service to members of the System in the first year—the integrity and dignity of the medical profession entitle us to greater consideration than this.

Doctors Ask Voice

"The time has come to grant the doctors a definite, if small, voice in the affairs of the System itself, the right to initiate and press to a conclusion matters which the doctors believe will contribute to the System's efficient operation. That's what this charter amendment is designed to do.

"The Health Service Board has pending before the Board of Supervisors another charter amendment to make its employees subject to the Civil Service and retirement benefit provisions of the charter. We do not intend to oppose that amendment. We hope the Board will not oppose ours."—*San Francisco Examiner*, September 10.

* * *

Barristers Club Health Service Plan Meeting With Wide Endorsement

Registration Ends Soon

Urging all members of the Barristers Club to participate, Fred S. Farr, past president, yesterday announced the deadline for the California Physicians' Service had been extended to September 15.

More than forty-five members of the club have already applied for service facilities, Farr said. Forty per cent of the club's membership must sign before the service becomes available.

The plan, which costs \$2.50 per month, includes health, accident and hospitalization and has been endorsed by the California State Medical Association, Harry S. Young, President of the Bar Association, and other leading lawyers.—*San Francisco Recorder*, September 5, 1940.

* * *

Geiger Against Charter Change

Wouldn't Use Hospital for Paying Patients

Health Director J. C. Geiger today opposed a proposed charter amendment which would open San Francisco Hospital to paying patients after all indigent cases have been accommodated.

"San Francisco Hospital is financed by the taxpayers to care for the indigent poor and is the finest institution of its kind in the nation," he said. "Private hospitals are doing an excellent job of caring for those who are able to pay and should not be in competition with a tax-supported institution."—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, September 5.

* * *

Institutions Separated From Other Charities

Hospital, Sanatorium and Poor Farm to Be Under Director Responsible to County Board

Action to separate the three major county charity institutions from the Los Angeles County Department of Charities and place them under a director without the necessity of a County Charter amendment and still keep within the law, was taken yesterday by the Board of Supervisors.

The institutions to be affected are the Los Angeles County General Hospital with an annual budget of \$5,500,000; Olive View Sanatorium for the treatment of indigent tuberculosis cases with a yearly budget of \$1,650,000, and the County Poor Farm, known as Rancho Los Amigos, with a budget of \$1,550,000.

Answerable to Board

All three will be under the supervision of the County Superintendent of Charities, as required by law, who will be a director directly answerable to the Board of Supervisors.

The other activities of the Charities Department, with the institutions out, will be under the supervision of a County Director of Public Assistance, the new title to be created by a county ordinance to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors. These activities will include old-age pensions, child and blind aid, direct relief, etc.

Plan of Allen

The action of the supervisors was taken on the recommendation of County Manager Wayne R. Allen, who declared that the new arrangement would create a saving of at least \$50,000 annually for the taxpayers of the county. It can be done, too, he said, without the necessity of a vote on a charter amendment as the institutions will be under the County Superintendent of Charities as the law requires.

Supervisor Gordon L. McDonough's proposal of a charter amendment to place the General Hospital in a separate county government department was voted down, 4 to 1.

Other Recommendations

The move of the Board of Supervisors to divorce the institutions from the Charities Department follows, to some extent, the recent recommendation of the Health and Welfare Committee of the County Grand Jury, which suggested a commission of seven members be created to supervise them. . . .—*Los Angeles Times*, September 11.

LETTERS

Concerning a Series of Lectures to Lay Audiences.

During the past several years the central office of the California Medical Association has cooperated with the Young Women's Christian Association of San Francisco by securing speakers for a lecture series that is given once or twice yearly.

Excerpt from a letter follows:

(COPY)

San Francisco, September 7, 1940.

Dear Mrs. McFarland:

Referring to our previous correspondence concerning lectures to be given at the Y. W. C. A., I am sending this additional information concerning the topics suggested by you.

The guest speakers and the topics they will discuss are as follows:

September 19—"Understanding Yourself and Others," John Alden, M. D., San Francisco.

September 26—"Learning to Relax," Ernest Lion, M. D., San Francisco.

October 3—"Learning to Live with Propaganda," W. A. Oliver, M. D., San Francisco.

October 10—"Mobilizing Your Emotional Forces (Mental Hygiene in Daily Living)," Helen L. Starbuck, M. D., Stockton State Hospital, Stockton.

As I understand the plan, the talks are to be of about forty-five minutes' duration, with allowance of fifteen minutes for subsequent questions and discussions. . . .

If we can be of further service, kindly inform us.

Cordially yours,

GEORGE H. KRESS, M. D.,
Secretary.

Concerning Cards of Physicians in Newspapers.

(COPY)

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sacramento, California,
August 16, 1940.

Subject: Yours of August 9, Re Newspaper Advertising.

Dear Doctor ———:

Pardon this belated answer to your query of August 9 as to whether "it is ethical for a physician to have a 'card' in the local papers, stating his hours and giving the address of his office."

In so far as is concerned the administrative work of the Board of Medical Examiners, there is no legal objection to a professional card in a newspaper relating the full name of the individual, suffix designating the degree which he holds, a statement as to the license issued to him, his address, office hours, and telephone number.

The question of ethics of such a card is within the province of the California Medical Association, George H. Kress, M. D., Secretary, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

Awaiting your further pleasure, believe me

Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

c/o California Medical Association
George H. Kress, M. D., Secretary
450 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

✓ ✓ ✓

San Francisco, August 20, 1940.

Dear Doctor ———:

Doctor Pinkham has sent to us a copy of his letter of August 16, on the subject of cards in local newspapers.

I am sending you a copy of the American Medical Association "Principles of Medical Ethics." On page 7, under Section 4, you will find a discussion of "advertising."

If we can be of any further service, kindly inform us.

Cordially yours,

GEORGE H. KRESS, M. D.,
Secretary.

Concerning Letter of Committee to Defend America.

EUGENE S. KILGORE, M. D.

490 Post Street

San Francisco, September 25, 1940.

To the Editor:—This is the letter of which I spoke—for publication in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

It went to 140,000 United States physicians (those more than five years in practice). Thank you!

EUGENE KILGORE.

COMMITTEE TO DEFEND AMERICA BY AIDING THE ALLIES

(William Allen White, National Chairman)

8 West Fortieth Street, New York

Dear Colleague:

If you believe as we do—

That America has long been in this war in the rôle of sleeping prospective victim;

That the struggle for freedom abroad is a delaying action in *our* war;

That the British fleet is our present chief defense; and

That our wish to *Keep the War Out of America* can best be favored by *all possible* aid to Britain—"possible" meaning within the discretion of our state and service departments, freed from needlessly restrictive legislation.

If you believe these things, we invite your active participation in the work of this Committee. There is much to be done. *First*, enroll with your local branch or start one in your community—to keep in touch with rapidly changing events and needs for action. Write to the Committee for information.

Second, make your influence count. This means, at the moment, your own letters or telegrams to presidential candidates and congressmen; then letters from as many other persons as you can influence—brief letters, stressing the need for utmost possible aid. President Roosevelt should be addressed at the White House, Wendell Willkie at Republican Headquarters, New York, your senators at the U. S. Senate, and your representative at the House of Representatives.

And, *third*, will you send a contribution today to the Committee so that it may expand and intensify its work in arousing America from its rôle of sleeping prospective victim. With nation after nation it has been "too little and too late." Please make checks payable to Frederick C. McKee, Treasurer, and send to the Committee in the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely yours,

Subcommittee for Medicine

Emile Holman, M. D.	Warfield T. Longcope, M. D.
Eugene S. Kilgore, M. D.	J. H. Musser, M. D.
Roger I. Lee, M. D.	D. B. Phemister, M. D.
Ray Lyman Wilbur, M. D.	

P. S. Tentative plans are forming to circularize other professional and nonprofessional groups. Much will depend upon the response of the doctors. If you are in accord with our purpose, your immediate reply will be most helpful.—Committee.

Concerning "Hygeia": Special Subscription Price.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago

Dear Doctor:

Imagine two million people reading *Hygeia* in their physicians' offices each month. A lot of people . . . a powerful influence for scientific medicine . . . but not imaginary!

Recently we made two independent surveys of physicians' waiting-rooms to see how many patients actually read *Hygeia*. The results were amazing! They showed a monthly readership of two million . . . and more than that, indicated that each person spent an average of fourteen minutes with *Hygeia*.

Certainly your office can and should share in this great influence. To show you how important we think it is for you to have *Hygeia* on hand, we make you this attractive offer . . . a subscription to *Hygeia* for the remainder of